

Reflection #1 Week 1 June 22th

My first experience of on-line training: on-line training is amazing.

From the information that my peers shared about Star Talk, I knew they were able to benefit greatly from the training provided. I learned that this program not only introduces the new theory, technics, and skills of Chinese teaching but also offers the hands-on practice to assist the Chinese teachers in strengthening their teaching skills. This year, I was fortunate enough to be selected for the UVA Star Talk training program. Before the one-on-one interview I had with Professor Tseng, I already had a general understanding of the training and its intricacies. I was looking forward to the on-site training at UVA.

On the week of June 18, I started my online training with Professor Tseng. This was the first time I have ever taken online training. Initially, I was worried about the effectiveness of online training and I did not have enough knowledge about online training. However, this week's training sessions were able to completely dispel any doubts, all the while causing me to benefit greatly from the training.

In the first training class, Professor Tseng guided the students to go over the World-readiness (5Cs). The review still assisted me in deepening my prior knowledge of 5Cs. It also served as a reminder for me to consider 5Cs teaching goals more often when creating my teaching plans. Additionally, Professor Tseng systematically and professionally explained the theory and practice of the Backward design and the five principles of student-centered instructional design. Although I have used backward design along with the student-centered practice in my teaching before, I have not discovered this theory before. With Professor Tseng's guidance, I gained a deeper understanding of backward design as well as a clearer idea of how to create teaching plans with the backwards design. Both Professor Tseng's analysis of the five principles of Student-centered teaching and the shared experiences of other teachers led me to reevaluate how I teach.

Based on the discussion of the teaching theories, Professor Tseng guided the class to examine numerous teaching videos of various teachers. I was shown that in teaching, Teacher Tsai fully embodies the four principles of student-centered teaching. From Ms. Cai's teaching, I also realized that using the target language to teach is very helpful, and is a part of creating a suitable environment while teaching. Looking back on the details of this video, I have noticed how I

struggled with how to let the students speak more in class. Now I know how to reduce my lecture time while inducing the students to speak more Chinese in class. Professor Tseng and the other teachers' experience was very valuable too. The high-quality and comprehensible input was and still is very beneficial to students' learning in the classroom.

The other teachers' experience of differentiated teaching reminds me to deal with, although my current class is small. However, mastering the theory and methods of differentiated teaching can be helpful for future challenges.

In addition to the two online teaching videos before class, I received a second training session in which we compared the application of Zoom and Nearpod for teaching in particular. The application of modern technology in teaching is an increasing trend and as such unavoidable. Through the analysis of these two videos, I realized that it is necessary to increase the application of technology in teaching. I am prepared to consolidate the use of technology in the classroom in future teaching sessions.

The first week's training also gave me a firsthand experience of being taught by flipped class and backward design. Professor Tseng demonstrated what the actual reverse classroom would look like and what backward design teaching is. Professor Tseng assigned the works and study guide before each meeting. The direction was very clear to follow. The students need to read articles, watch videos, and do the assignments before the meeting. In class, a more valuable output is created under the guidance of Professor Tseng. Professor Tseng plays the role of both coaching and mentor instead of a presenter. She asks questions in a concise manner and permits the students to share their opinions. She gives appropriate conclusions when necessary. The sharing of each student's knowledge is a good learning opportunity for other students, too. In my future teaching plan, I will incorporate these skills.

Self-reflection # 3 July 3rd

Hongying Jia

Today is the first day of onsite training. Today's training is intensive, educational, and informative. I'm excited for getting a lot of professional guidance from Professor Tseng, Dr. Gao, and Ms. Cai.

I got to understand the UVA Star talk program utterly through Professor Tseng's demonstration. I understand the history of the program and the unique of this on-line training program compare with other online trainings. From today's training, I also understand my role in this training program clearly. I will be an effective instructor for teaching the students. Professor Tseng pointed out the critical technics and the classical theories of being an effective Chinese instructor. I realized that I should temporally put away my previous stereotype teaching style and empty myself first so that I can refresh myself with the new teaching theory and skills. Online teaching is totally new to me. It is a challenge to teach Chinese on line through Zoom and Near pod. I was nervous before I started the onsite training. However, I got more confidence after Professor Tseng's demonstration. Yoyo's introduction of students' system also is very helpful. It is clear to me that how can I get more info about the students. This section also reminds me that I also need to get the whole pictures of the students and the program instead of just focus on the teaching plan.

The two master teachers gave us more details about teaching guide which really made my planning work easier. Before this, I was scared by the tons of learning objectives. Their explanations clarified my teaching tasks.

The most exciting section of the afternoon training is the observation of other teachers' teaching demo video. I learned the strength of other teachers, also realized my own weak part in my teaching video. In my video, I gave too much lecture instead of making the students speak more and practice more. My slides in not clear enough, too.

Overall, I did learn a lot today. I will use it into my teaching in next week.

Self-Reflection #4

Hongying Jia July 4th

The second-day on-site training is different from the first day. Based on the introduction of teaching theories and the general information of this program on the first day, we focus more on the teaching practice training on the second day. The online class observation and analysis are the highlights of today's training. Watching the other teachers' online class is the way for me to learn from the other teachers' strength. From the online class observation and sharing, I learned three things. First, a foreign language teacher can make his teaching more efficient by using technology very professionally. I will explore more in supply technology in teaching. Secondly, a class design with details is very important. From the videos I watched, it is easy to tell that the very well-planned classes are more efficient to realize the teaching objectives. Third, adjust the teaching method and strategy according to the students' level and status are very important, too. Even I have a perfect class design, I still should adjust my teaching according to the student's condition of the day, technology, and some other issues.

I not only learned a lot from the other teachers' strength and experiences, I also got a chance to think over my own teaching and realized the weaknesses of my teaching. First, I usually talk much more than the students in the class which is not good for students' output. I will practice the conversation and communication skills in class to encourage the students to practice more and push output more. Second, I cannot use the technology tools to enrich my teaching efficiently even I have all the convenience. I will practice the APPs more in my teaching to found out how to organize my class more efficient and more interesting.

Besides the teaching video observation and sharing, the other highlight of today is Professor Tseng's instruction of error correction and the skills of asking questions in class. Professor Tseng guided us to discuss how to ask questions and do error corrections appropriately and efficiently. I was really conquered by Professor Tseng's teaching skills. She didn't emphasize the theory in her teaching. However, she practiced each theory and strategies in her teaching. From the clips of teaching videos, the handout she shared with students, the way how she asked questions, and the circumstances she created, I can tell that she prepared the class very well and she showed us what the student-centered teaching should like.

Self-reflection # 5 July 8th

Hongying Jia

Although I believed that online teaching has a lot of benefit, I still doubted the efficiency of online teaching before I joined this Star Talk program. However, I experienced the benefits of online teaching through the first two weeks' online training. Kathryn-Judy's workshop on July

5th added extra credits to the online training. Through the workshop, I realized the necessities and importance of online training. It clarified my misconceptions of online training utterly. I hope I will get chance to teach online.

The two mindfulness sessions are the other highlight of these days. I was getting more anxious and stressful since the opening ceremony was approached. Even though I prepared a lot for the opening ceremony, I was still getting nervous because this is my first time to teach on line. The two mindfulness sessions helped me to be relaxed efficiently. I am very grateful to Professor Tseng for her careful arrangement. I benefited a lot from the practice. It helped me to release the stress and fulfil myself with the active energy which encouraged me to face the challenge in a positive way.

The online opening ceremony on July 6th was the most exciting time of the week. I was so excited to meet the four lovely kids. I was so excited to finally meet with my students face to face online. I have watched the four students' video before the opening ceremony. Therefore, I have known them very well before the opening ceremony. So, it was much easier for me to build a friendly and warmly relationship with the four students. In the small group online meeting, I got the chance to get to know more about the students. We also practiced the tools of Zoom and Nearpod to prepare them for the activities in the coming classes. Besides this, the opening ceremony also was a good practice for me to use Zoom and Nearpod in on line teaching class.

The group lesson planning on Friday was a good chance for me to double check my lesson plan and found out the parts that I need to modify. I practiced the backward design. The teaching rehearsal on July 7 are very helpful for the coming weeks' teaching. It also was a chance for me to realize the weak points of my teaching. I need to be more familiar with the techniques of switching the two different on-line teaching tools, Nearpod and zoom. Also, I need to work more on time management.

Self-reflection #6 July 9th
Hongying Jia

It was the biggest day for me because we started the first online teaching class on July 9th. Although I didn't teach on the first day but just worked as a teaching supporter, I was still very nervous and excited before the class started. I was worried some issue might happen during teaching. I hoped I could give the students the very impressive opening. My partner, Xue Song, prepared her lesson very well and we practiced several times before the class started.

The first day's teaching was very successful. Xue Song demonstrated perfect class management and teaching skills. She fulfilled all the "can do statement" and she used the tools of Zoom and Nearpod very well. When she taught, I tried my best to support. Because the teacher had a lot tasks during class, sometimes she didn't have enough time to explain some complicated word thoroughly to a certain student. Anytime when this happened, I typed in chatbox to give more detailed information to help the student understand the background more.

The first day teaching went through smoothly and successfully. I was very happy for my partner, but I felt more nervous the night before my first on line teaching. I hope I can switch the Nearpod and Zoom smoothly, I hope I won't have any technology issues when I am in teaching, I hope I can completed all the teaching tasks also I can create more meaningful fun for my students. The feedback and self-reflection of the teachers who taught on the first day was very helpful. I learned a lot from them. I think this is very important for my first teaching. First, I should memorize every student's Chinese name and their background which will be very helpful for me to build up the connection between the students' real life with our teaching topic. Therefore, the students will be more interested in the class and engaged more in the class. Secondly, I should take very detailed notes to remind myself for the important points. I took a brief note for each slide which help me to memorize the contents of my class which comforted me a lot. Third, I should not only focus on teaching, but also focus on the time management. We have a lot of teaching task in only one hour online teaching. We must spend even one minute smartly to let the students get enough chance to practice.

Self-reflection #7 July 10th
Hongying Jia

With tons of nervous and excitements, I started my first online face to face teaching on July 10th. Before it started at 9:30am, I was anxious and panic. I was worried that any unexpected issues might happen during my teaching. I worried if I would switch the screen from Zoom page to Nearpod correctly and swiftly. I worried that any technic problem might aroused while I was teaching. I worried that my laptop might encounter any issues that I could not consist the lesson. In order to avoid any possible issue, I went over the PPT with taking many detailed

notes. I also rehearsed the class with my partner, Xue Song in the evening before July 10th. We practiced each step of the lesson to make sure everything is well done. Even though, I was still nervous. So, I worked until 1am on the night and I went over everything before the class started in the morning. Still, I asked Teacher Song to teach for me just in case if any unexpected situation arose, such as laptop broken, wifi connection problem.

While it was turned out that I didn't need to be so nervous. The two sessions went smoothly and successfully. The only thing was that I forgot to switch to the Nearpod page after I asked the students to log into the Nearpod. But my partner, Song Xue reminded me instantly. So, I switched the page before the students realized it. This happened in the first session. In the second session, I kept the reminding in my mind. Therefore, I didn't make the same mistake.

On my first day of teaching, I encountered two issues. First, From the first day's teaching, I already knew that we could not share the music with the students while we were using head set. But I had to play a short video to demonstrate the greeting in a friend's house. When I need to play the video, I just unplugged my headset to make sure the students can hear the sound. Although this was not a perfect solution, this was the only thing I could do at that time.

The second issue was the Annotate of Zoom. It was extremely hard for Apple laptop to go back to the main screen. In my first teaching session, it took me a while to access the mouse of my laptop, I still could not find it. So, started from the second session, I and Song Xue made a decision that we helped each other to emphasize the teaching point when we had to use annotate. That means, when Song Xue was in teaching, I use annotate to highlight the words which she is working. In this way, we solved the second problem.

Self-reflection # 10 July 17th

Hongying Jia

On July 17th, I had my last teaching at home. I have watched several teachers' teaching at home the day before, so I got some idea of teaching on my own. Furthermore, based on the multiple of teaching theory, teaching skills, and technology tutoring input from the master teachers, I was very confident in teaching on line by then. Also, after the first 3 days' teaching, I have mastered the skills of asking questions. However, this was the first time that I taught on my own without Dr. Gao's technology support in hand, I was still nervous. After I was done with the

teaching session, I thought there were two challenges to me for today's class. First, this was the first time that I didn't have a supporter next to me. Even I logged into the Zoom Room 20 minutes earlier to make sure I would not have either technology problem or internet connection issues. But I was still too nervous to forget to record the class. The second challenge was the number of the students. I just got used to have class with two students. Then suddenly started working with four students without plenty of preparation with the team working was a challenge for me. Even though I did some work to get to know the other two students' level of Chinese, the info I got was still too limited. I spent half of the class to understand the students which led to the result that I could not complete the last activity thoroughly. Only two students got the chance to give the output, while the other two only got chance to ask questions. I hope I would have more chance to teach in the similar situation so that I would improve more. I didn't use the "break room" function to separate the students to two teams. When I watched Group One's teaching, I found that it might not be efficient when there was no teaching leading the Room. According to my students' level, I was not sure if they could start the conversation without the teacher's leading. So, I didn't use the "break room". But, I wish I had the opportunity to practice this function. I think the students would love it when they get used to it.

Today is the last day for me to teach. I think I have made a big progress in teaching Chinese with the UVA Startalk training. I used to give a lot of lecture in class, which were not meaningful to the students. By the help of the master teachers, I cleared my language a lot in class. Each word and each sentence I spoke in the class must be understandable to the students and must be highly related with the topic we were learning. I'm sure I will adjust my teaching plan for next school year.